

ILLINOIS HEALTH CARE FRAUD ELIMINATION TASK FORCE
Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 20, 2017
1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Illinois Health Care Fraud Elimination Task Force met and held a meeting open to the public on June 20, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at the James R. Thompson Center located at 100 W. Randolph Street, 16th Floor, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60601. There was a live video conference feed to the State Capitol Office located at 207 State House, 2nd Floor, Room 205V, Springfield, IL 62706. Individuals also participated via conference call.

The Task Force members in attendance were the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the of the Illinois Governor, Policy Advisor for Healthcare and Human Services and Special Counsel for the Office of the Governor, Inspector General for the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Acting Secretary at the Department of Innovation and Technology, Director of the Department of Insurance, Acting Director for the Department on Aging. There were also representatives from the following agencies – Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission, Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Office of the Governor, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Transportation.

I. Chair’s welcome

Executive Inspector General (EIG) Maggie Hickey, chair of the Task Force, welcomed the attendees to the meeting and gave an overview of the meeting agenda. The Task Force members took turns introducing themselves. EIG Hickey reminded members of the Task Force goal to provide the Governor with an interim report of our activities in October 2017.

The minutes from the March 24, 2017, public meeting had previously been circulated to the Task Force via email. The Task Force members adopted the minutes.

II. Update regarding Task Force activities

EIG Hickey provided an update of the activities of the Medicaid Working Group. One of the main things the group has been focused on is educating providers on fraud prevention. For example, the Department of Human Services is currently working on a web training for providers who are currently not receiving any training. General Counsel and Secretary for the Workers’ Compensation Commission Ronald Rascia gave an update regarding the Workers’ Compensation Working Group. Mr. Rascia discussed the working group’s efforts to study best practices from other states. Mr. Rascia also discussed the focus on return-to-work programs. Associate General Counsel for the Office of the Governor Heather Weiner gave an update regarding the State Employee Group Insurance Working Group. For example, Ms. Weiner discussed the State employee health insurance open enrollment period.

III. Medicaid fraud schemes presentation

Adjunct professor of Law at DePaul University College of Law who teaches a class on healthcare fraud and abuse and Associate at Roetzel & Andress Christina Kuta presented to the Task Force. Ms. Kuta discussed the types of healthcare fraud she sees in her line of work, types of individuals who perpetrate fraud, how to address individuals who commit fraud and how to identify and address overall fraud. Ms. Kuta also stressed the importance of educating providers on how to identify and prevent fraud.

IV. Presentation of State agency initiatives

Policy Advisor for Healthcare and Human Services and Special Counsel for the Office of the Governor, Greg Bassi, discussed efforts at the Department of Insurance to investigate and deter fraud in its workers' compensation program. Some of the initiatives include, working to enact legislation and increasing investigative staff.

Inspector General for the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Brad Hart spoke about the Medicaid Integrity Institute (MII) and the development of about 20 courses that allow state employees to learn about healthcare issues, i.e. Medicaid abuse. Inspector General Hart also highlighted his regular discussions with Program Integrity Directors and/or Inspectors General in Texas, California, Florida, and New York in order to discuss large-scale fraud, waste, and abuse schemes occurring in these large states and to brainstorm solutions.

V. Task Force questions and answers

Chair EIG Hickey asked if anyone had any questions and there were none.

VI. Public comments and questions

The public attendees did not have any questions or comments. Chair EIG Hickey thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.